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Thursday, September 22, 2016

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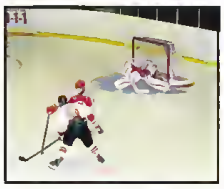

New crop of Meteors face growing pains 36

Emma Donoghue to visit library 43

ALISON LANGLEY/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Autumn Robinson, who operates In the Mix, displays some of her gourmet candy apples at Taste of Fort Erie, Saturday. For the full story see page 3.

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Ride to raise awareness for rare skin disease

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Eleven-year-old Anastasia Merry is like most kids her age.

She enjoys playing, and spending time with her small circle of friends.

Anastasia dreams of becoming a palaeontologist and can recite every type of dinosaur from memory.

But unlike other children her age, Anastasia suffers from a mild form of Epidermolysis bullosa (EB), an incurable skin disease.

"EB is called an orphan disease because no one seems to have heard about it," Anastasia's mom, Kathleen Merry, said.

Children who have the disease are known as Butterfly children because their skin is "as delicate as a butterfly's wings," Kathleen said.

According to DEBRA International, a research association, a person's skin has two layers. The outer layer is called the epidermis and the inner layer is the dermis.

Normally, there are anchors between the two layers of skin that prevent them from moving independently from one another. People with EB don't have those anchors, and any action that creates friction between the layers, such as rubbing or pressure, will create blisters and painful sores.

Kathleen said EB is a genetic birth defect, and while it's not contagious, there is "no topical ointment or cream that will cure it."

"Think of your skin as a piece of tape that will stick together when you rub it. A person's skin with EB is like a plastic bag. When you rub it together, it will shift," Kathleen said.

While caring for her wounds, Anastasia can't use band aids or any sort of adhesives because they can rip her skin.

"It can be quite a process caring for her wounds. We use Polysporin and wrap any wounds with gauze," she said.

Her mom said Anastasia has a normal life expectancy but she will always have to "watch for cancer, or infections which could lead to other health problems."

Kathleen admits she had held her daughter "back from a lot of things" out of fear Anastasia could be hurt.

"I wouldn't even let her play with stickers when she was younger."

Anastasia was diagnosed with EB as an infant.

"When I first found out, I was horrified. I looked up pictures on the Internet, which were the worst case scenario. I had no previous knowledge about it," Kathleen said. "Anastasia learned to walk at 14 months old, but she could crawl like nobody's business. If she couldn't do something, she would always find a way to compensate."

"Any sort of friction can cause blisters", so Anastasia has had a number of modifications made available to her at home and at school, which includes a special chair to prevent blisters from forming on her back, and boots that don't rub against her feet.

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Anastasia Merry is pictured here with her mom, Kathleen Merry. Anastasia suffers from a mild form of Epidermolysis bullosa, an incurable skin disease.

Anastasia, a student at Garrison Road Public School, wanted to share her story because she wants more people to be aware of the disease.

"I want to help find a cure and I want people to be aware," she said."

The Merrys will cheer on riders during the inaugural DEBRA Canada Ride for EB on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The ride will begin at Kingsbridge Park, at 7870 Niagara Parkway in Niagara Falls beginning at 11 a.m.

The cost to register is $100 per rider.

Canadian Tire is donating water for the ride, and the charity is still looking for cyclists to register, and companies willing to support or sponsor the event.

Please call DEBRA Canada at 1-800-313-3012 to find out how to get involved or visit http://debracanada.donorpages.com/DEBRARide2016/.

Kathleen encourages people to learn more about EB and to support DEBRA International, which provides support to EB patients around the world.

A Taste of Fort Erie

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

A little rain couldn't put a damper on the Taste of Fort Erie.

Autumn Robinson, who operates In the Mix, admits she was a bit worried yet undaunted when it started raining heavily as she set up her booth along Jarivs Street on Saturday.

"I wasn't going to leave," she said. "My friend went and picked up some tarps."

By mid-afternoon, the rain had cleared up and hundreds of people were browsing the stalls for the second annual Taste of Fort Erie event.

"It's picked up and it's getting busy," Robinson said as customers admired her gourmet candy apples and custom-made cookies.

This was Robinson's first time as a participant in the day-long festival but not her first visit.

"I came last year with my kids and it was a lot of fun," she said.

Hosted by the Bridgeburg Business Improvement Association, the free family event featured a kids zone and a variety of food vendors including the Niagara Samosa Factory, The Kitchen and The Savoury Bean.

"We are so happy that everyone came down after the rain," said event co-organizer Julie Brady.

"The streets are packed. It's amazing."

There was also live entertainment featuring performances by Spencer Mackenzie, The Associates, Guilty Pleasures, and Split Second.

"Good food and good music. What else could you ask for," said Welland resident Geoff Thornton.

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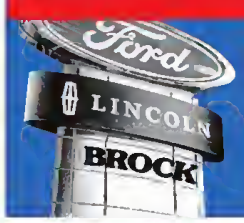

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The difference between gourds and squash

BRIDGEBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT 1873

At the Market

Is a gourd a squash? Yes. Can you eat it? No. They're mega bitter and gross. Dry them and make a pot, a display or a birdhouse out of them.

Stick to squash, one of the "Three Sisters of Life" in the traditional Aboriginal First Nations diet. Beans, corn and squash are the three sisters, and all happen to be indigenous to North America.

Squash has been cultivated in Central America, Peru, and Eastern United States for at least 8,000 years by Mesoamerican Indigenous Tribes.

Recently, some Native students here in Canada grew a huge orange squash from 800 year old seeds found in an ancient pot.

The squash family encompasses cucumbers, melons, zucchinis, pumpkins and gourds.

The entire squash plant can be eaten, leaves, stems, flowers, seeds; the whole enchilada! Squash isn't exported to other countries, and is consumed locally, therefore we can't say how many actual varieties there are in the world, but there's hundreds and maybe thousands.

Common winter squash varieties, those that take 100 days to mature: acorn, hubbard, buttercup, butternut, kabocha, turban, spaghetti, pumpkin, sweet dumpling, the list goes on.

Summer squash, like the zucchini and yellow summer squash take 50 days to mature and you can eat the entire squash, unlike the winter varieties that have hard skins.

Squash will keep for months in a cool dry environment; so visit Harish at Viniki Farms at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers' market this Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Jarvis Street and stock up for winter during the next couple weeks. The market will be coming to a close soon on Oct. 4.

Chrystal Haverstock is the co-ordinator of the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market.

Gourds are now in season at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market.

There are different varieties of squash available for purchase at the Bridgeburg Rustic Farmers Market.

HOW TO COOK AN ACORN SQUASH

- Choose a small hard squash and cut lengthways. Use one half per person serving.
- Scoop out the seeds, and save those for later.
- Preheat your oven to 350. Place acorns face down on a cookie sheet and bake 30 minutes. Remove from oven and turn right side up. In each half put a tablespoon of butter or margarine and a tablespoon of brown sugar and a sprinkle of salt.
- Place back in the oven and bake until melted and the squash can be pierced with a fork. Remove from the oven and place a whole half on the plate and let them scoop it out as they please.
- You can do the same method with most squashes except butternut. If you use a big squash, just use more butter and sugar and scoop the whole works out into a bowl to serve, or place the whole thing on the table and let it be a free for all.

HOW TO COOK A BUTTERNUT SQUASH

- Cut the squash in half above the bulb and peel off the skin.
- Cut the bulb in half and scoop out the seeds and save for later.
- Cut up the flesh into same sized chunks and either boil in salted water or steam until tender.
- Drain. Then mash with some butter or margarine, a ½ teaspoon of powered ginger and a ¼ teaspoon of nutmeg and a few tablespoons of brown sugar, adjust the taste with salt and black pepper. You can even add chicken stock and puree it into a soup. The kids will snort it!
- Those seeds you saved can be washed, salted and baked at 200 degrees for an hour on a cookie sheet. You can eat the shell and all, a great snack. Do that with the seeds from your Halloween pumpkin too.

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The Fort Erie Times

Peter Conradi regional editor
Sarah Ferguson editor

Point of View

Canada Post task force on right track

A task force struck to look into the financial state of Canada Post has delivered a first-class report. It concluded Canadians are more likely to prefer community mailboxes and a move to every-other-day delivery, rather than paying an annual fee or having to use more costly postage stamps.

The findings make good sense and should be adopted by the House of Commons committee that embarks on a cross-country tour later his month to consult with Canadians about postal service.

The Conservative government had started the controversial move to community mailboxes for the approximately five million addresses that were still receiving home delivery. It was expected to save Canada Post up to $500 million a year, but was stopped when the Liberals took office. It was a campaign promise Justin Trudeau's party made based on emotions, not the hard facts, as the task force has proven.

The community mailboxes provide needed savings for Canada Post and make the system more equitable, by treating every address the same. It was never fair that some people received delivery to their doorstep and others had to walk around the corner to get their mail — all while paying the same price for a stamp.

The four-person panel estimated that returning to door-to-door delivery would cost $1.2 billion — too much for Canada Post to absorb without the introduction of fees. It is believed it would cost $73 a year per address if everyone paid the levy, or $124 a year if it were applied to just those who want the door-to-door option.

Obviously, it isn't fair to charge everybody, including those who don't get delivery to their home. And $124 is too steep to be widely taken up, so the system would likely quickly collapse upon itself.

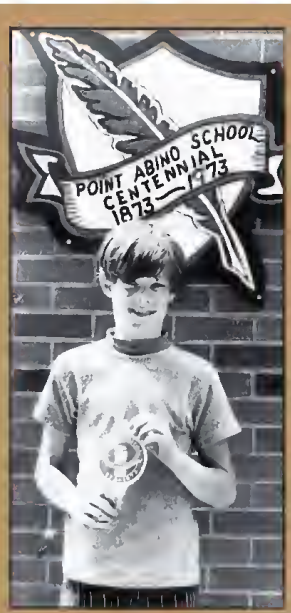
The challenges Canada Post face are considerable. Mail volumes have declined from 11.8 billion in 2007 to 8.8 billion pieces in 2015. As Françoise Bertrand, the task force's chairwoman notes, the company has gone from being a publicly owned monopoly delivering bundles of letters to an enterprise that must compete with privately controlled parcel delivery firms such as FedEx and UPS.

There's more bad news. The task force says that even with "an optimal implementation" of the options it has presented, which includes turning some rural postal outlets into franchises, Canada Post is expected to lose $700 million a year by 2026.

The Liberals, who pushed the pause button on community mailboxes in a misguided bit of populism, should get on with doing what can be done to modernize the service, including considering adopting every-other-day delivery.

Postmedia Network

Do you remember?



Our thanks to Julie Detenbeck for calling in about last week's photo of the boy and his "Growth of a Bean" science fair project. This was Bob Youngquist who attended Rose Seaton School with Julie. We also had an anonymous caller regarding the previous week's photo of the ladies celebrating their birthdays. Thanks to that person, we now know that the lady on the left was Emily Saylor. If you can tell us anything about this week's photo of the boy standing under the Point Abino School Centennial 1873-1973 sign we would love to hear from you. Please call the Fort Erie Historical Museum at 905-894-5322 or send us an e-mail museum@forterie.ca

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Where have all the birds gone?

Where do I go to see one of my favourite birds, the Eastern bluebird?

I could dive to Beaver Meadows south of Buffalo, N.Y. I could go west to Wainfleet near the lake where I have seen as many as 10 at a time.

When wife Elaine and I go to church in Sherkston we sometimes drive nearby to the beach and Lutheran cemetery. Elaine's relatives are buried there. Someday we will be too.

Near the end of the drive going in is one of some bluebird boxes erected by naturalist Rob Eberly of Ridgeway. There, often perched on a fence post in past years, was a pair of bluebirds. This was the nearest and best place for us to see these birds.

Here in 2016, there are fewer bluebirds, and I wonder why.

What's your favourite location?

Have you ever heard a bluebird call when flying? As they flit around the Beach cemetery grounds we hear a liquid and musical "queedle" sound. Those who have heard it know what I mean. It is an unmistakable bluebird signature. Audubon guide says," Its song is a soft melodious warble."

I am looking at some old photos of Great Blue Heron nests. I am not talking about five or 10 roughly formed nests of sticks. The late George Foss and I once pulled into Don Schneider's old place on Bowen Road. Let me explain that the Schneiders no longer live here.

You must ask for permission first. I asked permission to enter the wet area behind the property where the heronry was located. You could see about 18 nests from Bowen Road. Always seek permission when entering private land. A sight to behold.

George walked on ahead as I fiddled with my camera and mini-tape recorder. We had to navigate bodies of standing water but the sight that was unfolding was amazing. I had seen perhaps 25 heron nests in the Alabama Swamp outside of Lockport, New York.

George called out, "There's at least 40 here!" He was right. As we walked on we counted 20 more. I took my bird glasses and focused in on the nests. We both agreed that they were rough structures indeed and wondered how the young chicks could remain safe.

Great Blue Herons have from three to five pale greenish-blue eggs in a nest lined with finer material on a rough platform of sticks.

We couldn't see this finer material in the nest. If you have had heard the hoarse, guttural "squacks!" of this giant bird you can imagine the level of noise in just this one tree if all the nests were inhabited. The question: when the herons return from the south do they use the same nest again? Yes they did.

No more. You know the story. A team of lumbermen came in and destroyed the heronry. Not gradually but all at once. It's sad.

Earl Plato is a Fort Erie resident, local historian and nature lover.

Author Emma Donoghue set to visit the library

Emma Donoghue is coming!

On Wednesday at 1 p.m., avid readers and movie buffs are encouraged to visit the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library to spend an afternoon with the author of *Room*, including a reading from her latest book *Wonder*, questions and answers, book sales and signing.

Please call the library to have tickets set aside to ensure seating. This event is sponsored in part by the Canada Council for the Arts. Donoghue has written much more than *Room*, including *Frog Music*, *Astray*, *The Sealed Letter*, *Slammerkin*, and *Touchy Subjects*, all available in the library collection. Place a hold on any of her books in person at any branch, or online at www.fepl.ca with your library card.

Have you heard of storm chasers?

Nature photographer David Chapman is one, and he will bring amazing film and photographs to the Centennial branch on Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. to accompany his stories about chasing storms, including one that travelled from south of Smithville to Wainfleet.

He will also be able to answer questions about storms, tornadoes, and the effect of the Great Lakes, particularly Lake Erie, on our weather. Lakes Erie and Ontario often protect us from tornadic storms. Chapman's work regarding storms has been featured on The Weather Network, Global, CTV and WeatherNationTV. Chapman is Canwarn certified as a ground-truther, a weather watcher and ham radio operator who confirms on the ground what satellites and radars see in the atmosphere, and reports back to Environment Canada. If you would like to read more, the library collection includes many books for all ages on weather. Try Storm Chasers by David Toomey or Weather: a visual guide by Bruce Buckley.

This week's film is *Genius*, starring Guy Pearce, Colin Firth, Jude Law and Nicole Kidman. One thing many great American authors of the mid-20th century had in common was their world-renowned editor, Maxwell Perkins. He worked with F. Scott Fitzgerald, Ernest Hemingway, and larger than life Thomas Wolfe.

This biographical drama is about those men, and about complex friendships and life changing professional relationships, and is based on A. Scott Berg's book. It will be presented at the Crystal Ridge branch on Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 2 p.m., and at the Centennial branch on Thursday, Sept. 29, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

If you missed *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* last week, you can see it on Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Crystal Ridge branch, starting at 2:30 p.m.

Remember our repeating events, such as Stories for 2s and 3s, and Knitting. Each of these free programs offers sessions at both Crystal Ridge and Centennial branches. Ask for details.

Amy Roebuck is the community services coordinator at the Fort Erie Public Library.

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From the gardener's journal

Someone once told me to think of my garden as an outdoor health club because even light gardening burns almost 300 calories per hour.

After a few days of hauling stones, soil and logs around, I do think of my garden and the other spaces I care for as my outdoor health club.

This season brings the tidy up for the outdoor space—not cutting back too sharply as the common wisdom encourages us to leave many seed pods for the birds and critter life to feed on in the autumn.

The incredible sunshine and warmth of the past week was a welcome boon, loving the heat as I do. However, I must admit the greenhouse was a wee bit stifling in the heat, so this week will be better.

The great-great-great grandson of the original Mickey has been scuttling around the outside of the greenhouse and trying to make his way through the mint planted near the entrance.

We also placed rainbow Swiss chard along the flowerbeds in spring and now the harvest is wonderful. If you have not tried any Swiss chard, I would encourage you to do so.

You might not appreciate the flavour raw so chop it finely for salads and off set the flavour with dried cranberries and a tossing of orange juice. Mixed with the spring greens from the grocers, the colour of your salad will be splendid.

The autumn season brings a harvest of ideas as well as vegetables. And I have noticed in my travels that some fresh growth and bloom have begun after that much needed late summer rain. So look for buds on magnolia trees. Another crop of rhubarb, lovely luscious tomatoes coming into their own, the sweeter flavour of lettuce as the cooler evenings arrive. So enjoy that golden evening sunshine and the later harvest of rain-kissed vegetables.

Now those ideas that spring into life every autumn. I reflect and write the success stories of our outdoor spaces and note the changes and not so successful moments. That aids in the planning and preparation for next year. And this is the time to experiment with all the seeds that seem to literally fall into our hands.

I mixed a grouping of purple basil, oregano and thyme together recently. I am keeping them all mixed for planting next spring.

I am curious as to the combination of flavours they will produce as they are planted in a little grouping. I gleaned the idea of mixing herbs and perennials when we were traveling in Scotland.

I observed the limited outdoor space and the use of deep window sills for herbs and noticed that everyone seemed to plant their groupings in mixes for convenience. So we are trying that approach here on a smaller scale to see how that changes or improves the space.

In my responsibilities in the outdoor spaces we care for, I discovered a wonderful lesson this week. The hot season had discouraged me from extra weeding, by that I mean the weeds that thrive between the hard scape, the pathways, and walkways. In my mind I put that weeding off until the cooler weather.

Last week when I was tidying one of my outdoor responsibilities I noticed small piles of weeds that had been removed from the walkways and these piles were pushed to the side, neatly.

I found quite a few of these and then realized the walkways had been thoroughly weeded. Pleasant surprise and a great improvement to the over all appearance. Thinking kindly of the "garden fairy" who did this, on my way I went. And then just last evening I found out who the lovely " garden fairy "was who had weeded so beautifully. And realized this, all has been done from a wheelchair as this particular "garden fairy" has very limited mobility. So if I feel limited or you feel limited, let's remember this wonderful young woman who saw something that needed doing and didn't let any obstacle stop her. She is a beautiful example of the right attitude to life and living!

That note of encouragement leads me to say...don't wait for someone else. We can all do a little and this little adds up to quite a lot!

And some little reminders in this season of autumn. If you are finding some backache from the extra work try this little tip: fill an old (preferably clean) sock with uncooked plain rice, tying the sock off.

Warm the sock in microwave for one to two minutes and then apply to sore muscle, the heat will allow the back muscles to loosen and relax.

If you are finding yourself drowsy due to the decreasing sunlight(and it is slowly decreasing) eat apricots, apples, grapes, pears and oranges to stay alert. These fruits boost serotonin levels that increase your energy.

Ruth Vold Markle is the vice-president of the Fort Erie Horticultural Society.

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Not-for-profit agency offers a number of free services to seniors, people with disabilities

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Les Bodie doesn't know what he would have done if he couldn't find a volunteer driver to take him to and from his medical appointments.

"When I was living in the Goderich area, I had hip surgery in Toronto. I couldn't drive and I have no one to drive me. That's when I learned about a volunteer driving service."

When he moved to Fort Erie in February, Bodie decided to offer his time as a volunteer driver with Community Support Services of Niagara's transportation program.

"A lot of people, including seniors, can't drive or they can't afford to drive. That was my main reason for wanting to do this," he said.

The volunteer-based program, which is subject to the availability of volunteers, is available for seniors or people with disabilities. Priority is given to CSSN clients needing to go to medical appointments, but can be used for tasks such as grocery shopping.

In-town trips, which cost $9 for a round trip, are limited to two hours and two stops. Rates outside a client's local community are charged at 45 cents per kilometre.

Carrie-Lynne Sones, CSSN coordinator of volunteers and services, said Bodie is currently the only volunteer driver in Fort Erie, and that's something she said she hopes will change as more people become aware of what CSSN does.

CSSN, which formed in 2000, is a volunter-driven not-for-profit agency that provides a number of services to help seniors and adults with disabilities live independently in their homes.

The non-profit organization serves the Niagara region, and has three offices located in St. Catharines, Welland, and Beamsville.

The services that CSSN offers include a 12-week home exercise program, Meals on Wheels, homemaking, home maintenance and at home safety assessments.

Sones said the programs are either free, or have minimal costs to the clients.

CSSN also offers "peace of mind" for family members, through its volunteer visiting and phone chat, and Lunch Out programs.

A caring volunteer is matched with a client, and visits them in their home for companionship or calls to check on their well-being.

Clients get together on a regular basis with volunteers for a meal and a social activity as part of the Lunch Out program.

Sones will offer the public a chance to learn more about the services CSSN offers during presentations planned this month at a number of locations across Niagara. She said the goal of the presentations is to let people know about the services, and to recruit much-needed volunteers.

Sones will be on hand at the Centennial branch of the Fort Erie Public Library on Sept. 28 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information about services that CSSN offers call Sones at 905-682-3800 ext. 24 or visit www.cssn.ca.

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Health Corner

Understanding Tooth Cycle

What I am about to tell you could save you thousands of dollars over the course your life time. Interested?

If you understand the "tooth cycle", you will understand how it will save you from multitude of dental treatment over the course of life time.

The cycle goes like this;

Intact tooth -> small cavity ->small filling -> cavity around the small filling -> large filling -> cavity around the large filling -> massive filling -> cavity around massive filling OR fracture OR Crack -> Root canal -> cavity under massive filling with root canal OR Catastrophic fracture -> tooth loss -> partials, dentures or implants

The life time of this cycle can vary from years to decades and I am sure most people are familiar with this cycle.

Dr. John Inigo

All you have to do is, either break the cycle or increase the length of each cycle. For example, if you prevent yourself from getting the cavity in the first place, you won't start the cycle. Or if you already have the cavity, keeping the filling smaller by getting treatment earlier can lengthen the cycle.

If you already have large fillings, then getting crowns will lengthen the cycle by lowering the chance of fractures and cavity. The goal is to getting early detection and getting the proper restoration from the start. But the best way again is not to even start this cycle.

Dr. John Inigo is a practicing general dentist in Fort Erie and Ridgeway, ON. He can be reached at Inigo Bertie Dentistry, 905.871.2903 or Inigo Ridgeway Dentistry, 905.894.5555. For further information and discussion, please visit his office at www.inigodentistry.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE

Highland Avenue Reconstruction

The Town of Fort Erie has initiated engineering design for the **Highland Avenue Reconstruction project.** The proposed works include replacing the existing storm sewer, sanitary sewer and watermain, along with reconstructing the existing roadway structure on **Highland Avenue from Crooks Street to Central Avenue**. From **Central Avenue to the Niagara Parkway,** the proposed works include replacement of the existing storm sewer and road resurfacing.

Public consultation on the proposed design and getting feedback is an important component of the project. As part of the public consultation for this project, a formal Public Information Centre (PIC) is being planned to provide interested parties with an opportunity to review the design and construction plans. This is a **pre-approved Schedule A+ Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) project**. Those attending the PIC will have an opportunity to meet with the Project Team and discuss issues related to the project. The PIC will take place on:

Monday October 3rd, 2016
5:00 to 6:30 pm
at the
Fort Erie Public Library – Centennial Branch, Meeting Room
136 Gilmore Road, Fort Erie, ON L2A 2M1, (905-871-2546)

If you would like to learn more about the project and are unable to attend the PIC, please contact:

Monirul Islam, P.Eng
Senior Project Manager, Town of Fort Erie
Phone: 905-871-1600, Ext. 2413
Email: mislam@forterie.ca

Steve Overend, P.Eng (Consultant)
Project Manager, GHD
Phone: 905-682-0510
Email: steven.overend@ghd.com

Note: If you require accommodations to participate in this event, please contact Monirul Islam. Advanced requests are encouraged to enable us to meet your needs.

Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will be part of the public record.

Artist of the month at Hall Art Gallery

KRIS DUBÉ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Patti Harris, a Niagara resident for the last 12 years, has an art exhibit at Lakeside Books in Ridgeway running until Oct. 17. Inspired by the imagery of Lake Erie, her work is a mixture of collage and assemblage. There are 22 pieces on display, all of which are for sale. She will host a reception on Saturday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. You can also visit her website www.pattiharris.com. Lakeside Books is located at 341 Ridge Rd.

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TAX NOTICE

The second installment for the 2016 Final Taxes for all property classes is DUE FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Online Credit Card payments are now available. Monthly payment plans by pre-authorized bank withdrawal are also available for accounts with past due taxes and current year taxes.

All final 2016 Tax Bills were mailed on June 8, 2016. For more information, please refer to the back of your tax bill, call 905-871-1600 or visit www.forterie.ca.

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Municipal Act, 2001
SALE OF LANDS BY PUBLIC TENDER

THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF FORT ERIE

TAKE NOTICE that tenders are invited for the purchase of the land(s) described below and will be received until 3:00 p.m. local time on October 25, 2016 at the Municipal Centre, Clerk's Department, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Ene, Ontario, L2A 2S6.

The tenders will then be opened in public on the same day at The Municipal Centre, Conference Room 1 at 3:05 p.m.

Description of Land(s)	Min. Tender Amount
FERRY ST, PLAN 118 LOT 176 NP458 CORNER 0.10AC 45.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0062(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 97400	$2,806.83
CHAPIN PKY WS, PLAN 118 LOT 175 NP458 REG 0.10AC 42.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0061(R) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 97401	$3,024.67
CHAPIN PKY WS, PLAN 118 LOT 174 NP458 IRREG 0.10AC 42.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0060(R) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 97500	$2,866.15
BIDWELL PKY ES, PLAN 140 LOT 435 REG 0.10AC 40.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0097(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 98222	$3,028.42
BIDWELL PKY WS, PLAN 140 LOT 472 IRREG 0.10AC 42.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0030(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 98272	$2,475.95
BIDWELL PKY WS, PLAN 140 LOT 471 IRREG 0.10AC 42.00FR 105.00D, PIN 64467-0029(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 010 98273	$2,488.64
OAKES DR SS, PLAN 113 LOT 134 LOT 135 NP453 REG 0.22AC 80.00FR 118.50D, PIN 64219-0155(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 019 20300	$2,691.21
CHERRY AVE NS, PLAN 123 LOT 227 LOT 228 NP463 REG 0.22AC 80.00FR 120.00D, PIN 64468-0047(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 023 40800	$3,371.63
MOHAWK AVE NS, PLAN 123 LOT 291 LOT 292 NP463 REG 0.22AC 80.00FR 120.00D, PIN 64468-0024(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 023 46400	$3,378.82
EAGLE ST NS, CON 6 NR PT LOT 13 REG 10.01AC 1008.94FR 432.00D, PIN 64239-0126(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 028 03400	$13,533.11
STEVENSVILLE RD ES, CON 11 NR PT LOT 6 REG 0.52AC 100.00FR 225.00D, PIN 64243-0018(LT) ROLL NUMBER 2703 020 029 01000	$4,954.51

Tenders must be submitted in the prescribed form and must be accompanied by a deposit in the form of a money order or of a bank draft or certified cheque by a bank or trust corporation payable to the municipality and representing at least 20 per cent of the tender amount.

Except as follows, the municipality makes no representation regarding the title to or any other matters relating to the land to be sold. Responsibility for ascertaining these matters rests with the potential purchaser.

This sale is governed by the *Municipal Act, 2001* and the Municipal Tax Sales Rules made under that Act. The successful purchaser will be required to pay the amount tendered plus accumulated taxes and the relevant land transfer tax and HST if applicable.

The municipality has no obligation to provide vacant possession to the successful purchaser.

For further information regarding this sale and a copy of the prescribed form of tender, contact:

GILLIAN CORNEY
Manager, Revenue & Collections
1 Municipal Centre Drive
Fort Erie, Ontario, L2A 2S6
T. (905) 871-1600 ext 2305
gcorney@forterie.ca

Cyclists without sight

CHERYL CLOCK
Postmedia Network

Speeding along on the back of a tandem bicycle, his world is moving. Fast. Remarkably, uncharacteristically fast in a way that both energizes and empowers.

Travelling along the paved path at some 20 km/h, he sees tree trunks contrasted against the sunlight backdrop of the Niagara Parkway Recreational Trail. He can almost make out fluffy white clouds against a robin-egg sky.

He sees all the lush, green foliage as a picture conjured in his mind, because long ago, when his eyes were working better, he could actually see leaves. He remembers their beauty. He remembers the movement of leaves, ruffled by the wind.

Steve Mortley, a 53-year-old man who has lived with a progressive retinal disease that is slowly fading his world to black, hears the wind, the traffic along the Niagara Parkway and the clink and clank as his biking partner twists the shifters.

And he feels alive.

"To be 20 kilometres beyond the limits of your own world is good for your well being," he says.

"Good for your spirit."

On this afternoon in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Mortley has hitched a ride with 64-year-old John Clark of St. Catharines. They have known each other for several years, and John was sure a bike ride would be good for Steve.

Steve lives with retinitis pigmentosa, a disease that has gradually — he says insidiously — deteriorated his retina, the light-sensitive part behind his eye.

It first clouded the peripheries of his vision, then moved inward. Five years ago, he lost clarity in his central vision. He can't read or drive. Can't see the TV, but listens to it. He has used a white cane for about a decade.

In natural light, he can best see outlines of contrasting objects. He can't see facial features. Eventually, he will lose all his eyesight, and his vision will turn dark.

Steve was a minister before he was sidelined permanently in 2008 with chronic pain. He walks every day, but walking can be lonely. Boring.

"A cane creates a zone of silence," he says.

Engaging in conversation with people he meets along the way is a rarity.

On a bike, he is free.

Steve and John each provide balanced amounts of pedal power, but it's John who does the navigating, gear shifting, as well as occasionally giving Steve instructions like "coast" and "one, two, three — go."

John has been a volunteer rider for six years with the Trailblazers Tandem Cycling Club, a recreational club that gives blind, deaf-blind and partially sighted people the opportunity to cycle with sighted volunteers on bicycles built for two.

CHERYL CLOCK/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Trailblazers Tandem Cycling Club gives people who are blind, partially sighted, or deaf-blind, the opportunity to cycle with sighted volunteers on tandem bikes. The Toronto-based club organizes group rides, including one held in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Saturday. John Clark, pictured here at the controls, is one of the many volunteers. He offers a ride on his own bike, to a friend, Steve Mortley, who lives with a retinal disease. They are pictured along the Niagara Parkway Recreational Trail last Tuesday.

And while Steve is not a member, their ride together embodied the same philosophy.

It was a reason for Steve to leave his Virgil home. And it gave him a new and empowering experience.

"It's about the sensation of moving faster than you normally would," says Steve. "When you're visually impaired, you're always going very slowly, very tentatively. You've got your hand out, making sure you don't hit something.

"When you're not out there experiencing life, new experiences mean something to you.

"They are memories you can draw back on when you're in your own home. You draw them back into your mind when you're feeling down."

The Trailblazers is a non-profit organization, run by volunteers who are mostly based in Toronto.

However, it offers organized group rides across southern Ontario where sighted riders, called captains, are paired up with non or partly-sighted cyclists, called stokers.

Stokers are the engines, says Lynda Spinney, club president. And just as stokers long ago shovelled coal into the engine of a steam locomotive, these stokers "are the strength behind the rider," she says.

Trips average about 50 kilometres. The organization also pairs up riders individually for pleasure rides, although at this time it's only offered in Toronto.

The club's history began in the summer of 1987, when some friends with tandem bikes got together to give rides to people with limited sight. It's grown into a group of 40 members and more than 60 volunteer drivers, says Spinney.

Bikers are paired by weight and height. Beyond that, it's about fresh air, physical activity, meeting friends and having fun.

"People who are visually impaired have many barriers," she says. "This is one barrier we can overcome."

Steve returns from the ride, his spirits lifted. He has spent much time along the parkway and the visual experience of his ride is a compilation of what he can still see, and what he remembers.

"I still have memories of those places," he says.

"It's peaceful. It's one of the nicest places on earth."

Cclock@postmedia.com

TRAILBLAZERS TANDEM CYCLING CLUB

A recreational cycling club giving people who are partially sighted, blind or deaf-blind the opportunity to cycle with sighted volunteers on tandem bikes.

For more information, visit www.trailblazerstandem.org or phone 1-416-760-2700.

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BANK LOCAL
A look back at the week in Niagara
/PenFinancial
@PenFinancial

Honouring those who made the supreme sacrifice

OUR NIAGARA

PenFinancial CREDIT UNION

The Krupp field gun was captured from German troops by Canadian soldiers in August 1918.

The war trophy was later presented to the city of Niagara Falls by Dr. James Barry, a former resident who was the medical officer of the battalion that captured it. Almost 100 years later, military representative from both Canada and Germany met at the Niagara Falls Military Museum on Saturday to mark the re-dedication of the field gun and also to pay tribute to what the gun represents. "What was once our enemy is now one of our best friends in Europe and we need important allies," said Lt. Col. Bernard Nehring, past commanding officer of the Lincoln and Welland Regiment. "Today, reconciliation is important because we work together, we have the same aims and objectives, so today we recognize and memorialize but we also emphasize reconciliation." Lt. Col. Nico Hulshoff, defence attache with the Germany embassy's service for military in Ottawa, agreed. "This field gun reminds us that we cannot take peace and welfare for granted. We have to work for it and take care of it."

The First World War gun, which had stood at the front of the museum, formerly the Niagara Falls Armoury, for decades, had become a casualty of old age and wood rot. It was removed from outside of the museum in May and carefully transported to a Pelham shop where it was given some much needed attention. It was returned to the Victoria Avenue property earlier this month and a re-dedication ceremony was held Saturday. By Alison Langley

TRULY LOCAL BANKING

United Way joins forces for 2016 campaign

ALISON LANGLEY
Postmedia Network

Two agencies. One goal.

"Our mission is to improve lives and build community by engaging individuals and mobilizing collective action," said Tamara Coleman-Lawrie, executive director of the United Way of South Niagara.

"We improve lives by investing donor dollars in local programs and services."

The United Way of Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie and the United Way of South Niagara came together last Thursday to launch a joint 2016 campaign to raise $1.8 million, which will be shared among more than 60 agencies including Meals on Wheels and the Canadian Mental Health Association.

"Many of you don't know that we have actually been working together for over a year on many projects, which proves that collaboration doesn't always have to be formalized, but can evolve naturally, based on the needs of the organizations and the community," Carol Stewart-Kirkby, executive director of the United Way of Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie, said Thursday at the campaign kick off at Heartland Forest.

"We are looking forward to continuing this relationship knowing that it can only lead to even better service to our donors, agencies and community," Stewart-Kirkby said.

More than 60,000, or roughly one in three people, are assisted by a United Way-supported agency each year.

Coleman-Lawrie said funds collected during the campaign will be invested in programs that address several core areas of focus including "moving people from poverty to possibility, supporting the health of people which builds a stronger community and ensuring kids and families have the opportunity to be all they can be."

The agencies cover Niagara Falls, Fort Erie, Welland, Port Colborne, Pelham and Wainfleet.

Call 905-354-9342 for information on Niagara Falls and Fort Erie events and 905-735-0490 for information on United Way of South Niagara events.

In addition to the joint campaign, both agencies have launched a new website, unitedwayniagara.org.

Donations are collected through workplace campaigns as well as personal donations and a variety of United Way-hosted events held in October and November.

alangley@postmedia.com
@nfallslangley

Carol Stewart-Kirkby, executive director of the United Way of Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie, was on hand last Thursday at Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls for the joint launch of the 2016 United Way campaign with a goal to raise $1.8 million.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR UNITED WAY OF NIAGARA FALLS AND GREATER FORT ERIE:

Oct. 13 – Elimination draw and dinner at Club Italia
Oct. 19 – Tony Roma's luncheon
Oct. 28 – Buchanan's Chophouse luncheon
Nov. 3 – Mick & Angelo's luncheon
Nov. 10 – Crowne Plaza Hotel fashion show and luncheon
Nov. 16 – Skylon Tower luncheon
Nov. 23 – The Keg Steakhouse and Bar luncheon
Nov. 29 – Italo-Canadian Club & Maria's Catering luncheon, DiPietro St., Fort Erie

Upcoming events for the United Way of South Niagara:
Nov. 1-11 -Auction for Action, Seaway Mall
Nov. 22 - It's a Wonderful Life Event, Riverstone Event Centre

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Stk#28486

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YOU PAY $20,988 Plus HST Cash

2014 SIERRA 1500

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Optimists plan an evening out for women

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

Members of the Fort Erie Optimist Club are planning a special night out just for women.

The inaugural Girls Night Out, planned for Thursday, Sept. 22 from 7 p.m. To 10 p.m., at the Optimist Hall on Gilmore Road, will help raise money to purchase Christmas decorations.

"In the spring, there was a water main break and the basement of our clubhouse flooded. All of our decorations for our annual Santa's Fantasy Land were ruined and had to be thrown out," explained incoming Optimist president Sue Brown.

Brown is hoping the event will help raise $2,000 to replace all of the items that were lost.

According to Brown, anyone who attends Girls Night Out won't be disappointed.

"It's going to be a classy affair, and it's going to be a fun time for everybody to come and have a nice evening out," Brown said.

"I've helped to organize similar events in Port Colborne and they've all been a success. I'm trying to make sure that this becomes an annual event in Fort Erie," she added.

Those who attend will enjoy vendors offering a variety of items including Scentsy, makeup, handmade bath balms, Avon, chocolates and more.

The event will also feature psychic readings, door prizes, a 50/50 draw, and music.

Volunteer firefighters will serve finger foods, and each woman will leave with a grab bag and a flower.

Tickets are limited and cost $20 each. Anyone who can't attend the event, but would like to donate Christmas decorations is welcome to do so.

For more information or to purchase tickets call Optimist member Lauren Haun at 905-329-4823.

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Adventure course stalled

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Wildplay is still awaiting TSSA approval before it opens its Whirlpool Adventure Course on Niagara Parks Commission property at Thompson Point.

There was original optimism the attraction might be up and running near the end of July, just after Wildplay's MistRider Zipline to the Falls opened for business to the public at the base of Clifton Hill.

The opening was then pushed back until late August, and again into September.

The wait continues.

"The Whirlpool Adventure Course is delayed due to permitting issues with TSSA (Technical Standards Safety Authority). We are anxiously awaiting these approvals," said Lindsay DiCosimo, marketing and communications manager for Wildplay. "We are hopeful that we can open in the fall pending the TSSA approvals."

DiCosimo said she's not aware of any construction or engineering issues that might be holding up their opening.

She would not say what particular issues, if any, may be preventing TSSA approvals.

"Part of our opening process includes making sure that our risk-management practices meet or exceed our high standards, as well as the standards of appropriate regulatory bodies, such as the TSSA. We are proceeding through this process along a timeline that makes sense for us to evaluate and finalize our guest experience without compromise. We are confident the TSSA will continue to work with us in order to open the (attraction) as soon as possible.

She said it's unclear when the attraction, which is going to be a three-season operation (spring, summer and fall), will open.

When asked if Wildplay has a timeframe where if they don't receive the necessary approvals by a certain date, they will wait until next spring to open the course, DiCosimo said: "Not that I'm aware of.

"If we get those permits, we'll definitely be able to open in the fall. But, again, we're just at the mercy of the TSSA standards."

According to the TSSA website, they are the governing body that regulates amusement rides in Ontario. Their jurisdiction includes such things as roller coasters, water slides, go-carts, inflatable bouncers, bungee devices, zip lines (track-and-cable rides) and other generic spinning and whirling rides. They review and register rides, issue permits, license operators and conduct inspections and incident investigations.

When reached for comment, a TSSA media representative would not provide specifics, and would only say: "TSSA approval is contingent on Wildplay meeting the safety requirements as set out in the regulations, which they have yet to do."

David Adames, acting Niagara Parks Commission general manager and senior director of business development, acknowledged "it's taking longer than we anticipated" to get TSSA approvals.

He said the delay has nothing to do with any construction or engineering deficiencies.

"It's more of the equipment that meets TSSA's current standards. I think that's where it's going a bit of back and forth on what can be approved and what can't be."

Adames said commission and Wildplay officials have not had a conversation about what the plan will be if they don't receive TSSA approvals soon.

"We're very hopeful that we'll get that approval, and they'll be able to open this fall. But we'll have to make that determination if the discussion still goes on," he said.

"Obviously, safety is paramount, and we want to make sure that we're getting that TSSA certification, and that's the waiting period right now."

The adventure course has been described as a playground in the air for adults. It involves a series of suspended obstacles, wobbly bridges, mini zip lines, log ladders, rope swings and cargo nets through which guests can navigate at their own pace. There is also a kids course, for ages five to 12.

rspiteri@postmedia.com
Twitter: @RaySpiteri

Wildplay is awaiting TSSA approval before it can open the Whirlpool Adventure Course on Niagara Parks Commission property at Thompson Point.

MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

The Whirlpool Adventure Course on Niagara Parks Commission property requires safety approvals before it can opento the public.

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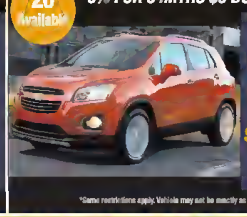

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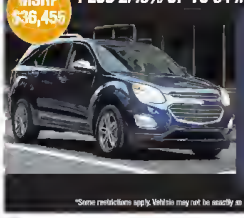

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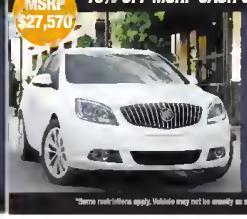

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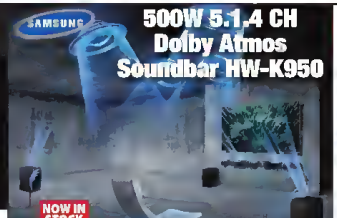

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Grade 9 Day

Staff and students from Fort Erie Secondary School and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School gathered together at Old Fort Erie on Sept. 9 for a day of team building and fun. More than 200 students attended one of many events planned to introduce the students before they come together when Fort Erie's new high school, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, opens next September.

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SEPT 28, 1 PM, CENTENNIAL
An afternoon with the author of Room, including a reading from her latest book Wonder, questions and answers, book sales and signing. Sponsored in part by the Canada Council for the Arts. Please reserve a ticket to ensure seating.

STORM CHASERS
SEPT 28, 7 PM, CENTENNIAL
David Chapman brings amazing film and photographs to accompany his stories about chasing storms, including one from south of Smithville to Wainfleet!

HOW-TO FESTIVAL
OCT 1, 10:30 AM – 2:30 PM, CENTENNIAL
All ages fun all over the library! Try something new: skills, sports, crafts, including cartooning, playing musical instruments, making ice cream, braiding a rope, woodcarving, balloon animals, using a 3D printer, operating robots and more. Please plan to park off-site.

AUTHOR VISIT WITH IAN HAMILTON
OCT 4, 1 PM, CENTENNIAL
Meet the author of the Ava Lee mystery series for a reading, book sale and signing. Sponsored, in part, by the Canada Council for the Arts.

WRITERS' GROUP
OCT 5, 6:30 PM, CENTENNIAL
Teen through senior writers Tips and advice, challenges and homework, too, to get you started. Bring your work; bring your questions. Free.

FILM: THE MESSENGER
OCT 6, 6:30 PM, CENTENNIAL
OCT 11, 2:00 PM, CRYSTAL RIDGE
Issues facing birds have daunting implications for our planet. This visually thrilling film reveals causes of songbird depletion and people working to turn the tide. Free screening, thanks to the Bert Miller Nature Club, the Niagara Falls Nature Club, and Niagara Beeway.

PORT'S PICS
OCT 12, 7 PM, CRYSTAL RIDGE
Andrew Porteus, recently retired from the Niagara Falls Public Library, curated historic photographs of Niagara Falls--the city and the wonder of the world. He has gathered many of the most interesting to share with us.

TEA SEMINAR
OCT 19, 7 PM, CENTENNIAL
If you enjoy a delicious cup of tea and want to learn more about its endless varieties and rich culture, sign up for a Tea Seminar, provided by Amanda Galenkamp of the Polar Tea Company, and certified TAC tea sommelier James Cadeau. Please call to register; a fee of $12 entitles you to a tea tasting with a total of 24 different teas!

FOOD FOR FINES
OCT 15 – 22 DURING LIBRARY HOURS, ALL BRANCHES
Support your library, reduce your fines and help others in your community. $5 in fines will be waived for each non-perishable food item donated, up to $50 in fines waived/person. Does not apply to items which have been declared "lost" or sent to collections, but does apply to overdue items as they are returned, as well as to existing overdue fines Items will be donated to area food pantries. Good on DVDs, magazines, CDs as well as books.

TRIVIA TIME
OCT 20, 6:30 PM, CENTENNIAL
Have fun with friends, test your knowledge, support your library and enjoy great prizes, all at the same time with our 4th annual Public Library Week Trivia Time. $15 per person, 4- 6 at a table. Be sure someone at your table registers the group! Ticket includes a piece of pizza and a beverage, you can buy penny auction tickets, 50-50 draw chances, and more. Doors open at 6 pm; contest begins at 6:30 pm.

TATTOOING
OCT 26, 7 PM, CENTENNIAL
Jennette Connors will be here to talk about the history of tattooing, tattoo designs and current practice, and more.

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STORIES FOR 2S AND 3S
TUESDAYS, 10:30 AM, CENTENNIAL
WEDNESDAYS, 10:30 AM, CRYSTAL RIDGE
ALTERNATE MONDAYS, 10:45 AM, STEVENSVILLE
Children ages 1.5 and up and their caregivers. Join us for reading, writing, talking, singing and playing—five fundamental skills that get children ready to read! Drop-in, no registration.

LEGO JAM
ALTERNATE SATURDAYS STARTING OCT 15, 1:30 - 3:30 PM, CRYSTAL RIDGE
All ages. Bring your building mastermind, and we'll provide the Lego and the tunes! Some creations will be put on display in the library! Drop-in, no registration.

KNITTING
TUESDAYS FOR AGES 16 AND UP, CENTENNIAL, 6:30
THURSDAYS FOR AGES 8 – 15, CRYSTAL RIDGE, 6:30
Doryne Levere teaches knitting All yarn and needles necessary are provided, though people are welcome to donate, or bring their own. Drop-in, no registration.

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TONY RICCIUTO / POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Niagara Falls businessman Felix Pingue has organized some of the clubs in the Niagara area to help raise funds for the victims of last month's earthquake in Italy.

Italian earthquake victims get hand up from local clubs

TONY RICCIUTO
Postmedia Network

Niagara's Italian community is planning a number of fundraising events hoping to raise about $200,000 to help those affected by last month's earthquake that slammed central Italy and destroyed most of the medieval city of Amatrice.

The 6.2-magnitude quake on Aug. 24, killed nearly 300 people and left entire sections of a dozen towns and villages reduced to rubble.

"This is the first time that we've had nine of the clubs working together for something like this," said organizer Felix Pingue, who has family living close to the affected area.

Each club will plan and host its own events during the next few months and hope to have things wrapped up before Christmas. All of the money collected with be personally dropped off by a representative of their group. Anyone who wishes to attend is responsible to pay for their own trip.

"We are keeping the politics out of this. Not one penny will end up in the hands of a politician or any agency," said Pingue.

A public meeting will be held once the money arrives in Italy and it will be distributed according to a plan that has worked well in the past.

Pingue, a businessman and past president of Club Italia in Niagara Falls, said a process of collecting and distributing the money was put in place in 2009 when an earthquake levelled much of the city of L'Aquila. That system worked well, unlike previous earthquake fundraising events where money was collected and turned over to various organizations or government agencies, and then took years or never reached those who needed it.

L'Aquila is about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast of Rome and about 48 kilometres (30 miles) south of Amatrice. The earthquake in L'Aquila killed 309 people and left an estimated 60,000 people homeless.

"Some of the clubs are smaller so it's hard for them, but they are all doing it from their hearts. We would like to have it done by Christmas so that the money can be delivered early in January," said Pingue. "We cannot rebuild what has been destroyed. The only thing we can do is help the people who are left and we need to help them now."

Anyone making a donation is asked to do so by cheque.

A list is being kept of all donations and another list will be made once the money is distributed that will show the names of families that were helped. It's believed that about 15 children have lost both parents.

Vito Tofano, president of Casa Dante Lodge 19 in Welland, said they had a great response with their pasta take-out night held on Sept. 8.

They raised about $8,000 and hopefully will be able to raise a bit more before everything wraps up.

"We reached our goal and we received about $300 in donations," said Tofano.

Upcoming events include a function on Sept. 23, put on by the Pingue family and Napoli Restaurant, on Sept. 30 at the Italo Canadian Centennial, on Oct. 7 at the Italo Canadian Club in Fort Erie, and on Oct. 14 at the Italian Canadian Cultural Club in Port Colborne. More events are being planned.

Pingue can be reached at 905-356-3186.

The nine participating organizations are Club Italia, Club Roma, Club Capri, Club Castropignano, Casa Dante Lodge 19, Italo-Canadian Centennial, Italo Canadian Club in Fort Erie, Italian Canadian Cultural Club in Port Colborne, and the Trieste Lodge in Hamilton.

tony.ricciuto@sunmedia.ca

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Man steals from elderly church volunteer

TONY RICCIUTO
postmedia network

A St. Catharines man who took advantage of a 75-year-old church volunteer has been placed on probation for two years and was ordered to pay back the $600 he took from her bank account.

David Hiltz, 49, appeared in the Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines and pleaded guilty to two counts of theft and one count of fraud. The offences took place on March 1, April 8 and May 20.

Court heard Hiltz became friends with a 75-year-old church volunteer and he used that friendship for financial gain. He would visit the woman and before he left would ask her for money. The woman would give him small amounts of money and she also trusted him with some banking information.

Hiltz stole her cheque book and forged her signature on a cheque that he cashed for $600.

Court also heard that on May 20, Hiltz and another man visited five different stores in the Fairview Mall and stole a number of items valued between $20 and $140.

Judge Joseph Nadel placed Hiltz on probation for two years and told him to start saving his money because he has to pay back the $600 that was taken from the elderly volunteer.

"She did not deserve what you did to her," said the judge."You took advantage of her."

tricciuto@postmedia.com

WWW.FORTERIETIMES.CA

First World War field gun restored

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

A First World War field gun has been repaired and restored, and is back on display out front of the Niagara Military Museum in Niagara Falls.

The Krupp gun, which is about 100 years old and is owned by the City of Niagara Falls, was removed May 9 from outside of the armoury and taken to a Pelham shop where it was given some much needed attention.

This month, it was returned to the Victoria Avenue property.

"They sandblasted off almost 100 years worth of green and grey paint," said Jim Doherty, president of the museum.

"It's sitting up on its original cradle. The poor, old girl looks pretty good."

He said the repairs were necessary for the structural integrity of the gun.

"It was almost to the point of disintegrating. We were afraid to pick it up. We put temporary wheels on it, and rolled it up on to the flat deck of St. Catharines Towing (who took the gun to the Pelham shop).

"If we tried to lift it, we thought it might collapse in half, like fold up. That's one of the things they had to do some repair on, was the undercarriage, and actually weld some structural materials in."

Doherty said the gun was taken to Hall Ironworks in Pelham, which was the subcontractor to the Field House Group.

CONTINUED > PAGE 35

MIKE DIBATTISTA/NIAGARA FALLS RE

The First World War field gun, owned by the City of Niagara Falls, has been restored and is back on display at the Niagara Military Museum on Victoria Avenue in Niagara Falls.

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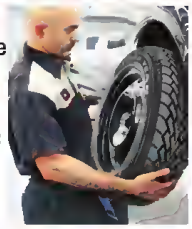

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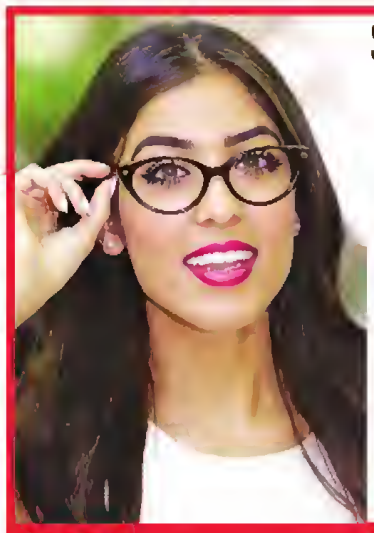
KRIS DUBÈ/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

Debra Clemence, left, with Fort Erie SPCA general manager Wendy Trombley at a sock hop held at the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 71 on Saturday night. The event raised more than $1,000 for the Fort Erie SPCA and organizers are 'very grateful' of the support received, Trembly said.



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Very rare gun is one of only 200 that were made

CONTINUED FROM > PAGE 32

The cost for the restoration was $30,000. Veterans Affairs Canada approved a $15,400 grant for the project, while the museum was responsible for raising the rest of the money. The museum received financial contributions from various individuals, businesses and organizations.

Doherty said there are two more phases planned for the gun. Phase two will involve expanding the concrete base, at an estimated cost of $5,000. Phase 3 will be to construct a protective shelter for the gun, at an estimated cost of $10,000.

He said the museum will continue fundraising for those phases.

"We have a plaque that will be going next to the field gun, and under it we have a space for donors and also a space for in memoriums. If you want to remember somebody, there's a spot where it can go.

"At the moment, we have Feren Signs doing a plaque that we can use inside the building. We hope to get a laser-cut steel permanent plaque to go outside."

The gun was captured from the German troops of Kaiser Wilhelm II at the Battle of Arras on Aug. 30, 1918. It was previously thought to be from Aug. 8, 1918, at the Battle of Amiens by the Second Canadian Infantry Battalion, First Canadian Division.

"We now have access to the war diaries of the Second Battalion, online from Archives Canada," said Doherty. "Just doing some quick research, I think it was captured Aug. 30, 1918."

The gun was a war tropby, and it was presented to the City of Niagara Falls by Capt. James E. Barry, a former resident of Niagara Falls, who was the battalion's medical officer.

The gun had become a casualty of old age and wood rot. The wooden spokes on one of the wheels rotted, much the same as what happened on the other side about 10 years ago, and needed to be repaired.

The wheels, which are more than five feet high and weigh roughly 200 pounds, are made of wooden spokes held in place by a steel rim.

The gun has bullet holes and shrapnel marks.

"It's a very rare gun," said Doherty. "Apparently, there were only 200 made, and they were good enough that they were even pressed into service in the Second World War."

A re-dedication ceremony was held Saturday at the armoury at 5049 Victoria Ave.

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JOSEPH BURD/SPECIAL TO THE FORT ERIE TIMES

The Fort Erie Meteors fell 6-5 to the St. Catharines Falcons on Saturday at the Fort Erie Leisureplex.

Home opener was a learning experience for Meteors

SARAH FERGUSON
Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Meteors home opener was a learning experience for members of the junior B team.

The St. Catharines Falcons defeated the Meteors 6-5 in a Greater Ontario Junior Hockey League, Golden Horseshoe Conference game Saturday at the Fort Erie Leisureplex.

The Falcons improved to 3-0-0-1 while the Meteors dropped to 1-3.

With about 16 new faces, and three or four returning players on the team, assistant coach Brandon Thomas said the Meteors are facing "growing pains" this season.

"I thought we worked really hard. We've got a young team this year but we've got a lot of guys that want it in there and (Saturday) was a really good character test," Thomas said.

"We played a tough game against Caledonia (Friday) night, and we were back in against another really good hockey team (Saturday) night."

According to Thomas, the Meteors "made some young mistakes" but the players gave a "gutsy effort."

The Falcons led 2-1 after the first period, and 4-2 after two periods before the Meteors added some excitement to the game and charged back with four goals in the third period.

Danny Katic and Daylon Groulx each had two goals for the Meteors while Andrew Somerville collected a goal and three helpers.

Tyler Hawk made 31 saves and took the loss in net.

Owen Green paced the Falcons with three goals while newcomer Lucas Smilsky continued to impress with two goals and three assists. James Guest also scored while Tanner Ferreira collected five assists.

Ethan Slobodzian made 21 saves on 26 shots for the Falcons.

The Meteors incurred 16 minutes of penalty time on four infractions while the Falcons received eight minutes on four infractions.

•••

The Fort Erie Meteors fell 7-3 to the Caledonia Corvairs on Friday at the Haldimand Centre.

Daylon Groulx scored two goals, and Cody Petawabano scored a single for the Meteors.

Quentin Maksimovich, Ryan Punkari, Bailey Fletcher, Guy Polillo, Evan Bidenti, and Anton Trublin earned points for Caledonia.

•••

The Meteors defeated the St. Marys Lincolns 7-1 on Saturday, Sept. 10 at the Western Fair Community Centre.

Bryan Zurowski scored two goals, and Alex McAteer, Cail Cirillo, Jesse Burger, Derek Pymont and Daylon Groulx scored singles for the Meteors.

Brandon Glover scored the only goal for the Lincolns.

•••

Jesse Burger scored the only goal for the Meteors in a matchup against the Brampton Bombers at the Western Fair Community Centre on Friday, Sept. 9.

The Meteors fell 4-1 to the Bombers.

Evan Stull scored two goals, and Andrew Borgatti and Masson Sarris scored singles for the Bombers.

Junior B hockey

Fort Erie at St. Catharines, Friday, Sept. 23, 7:15 p.m.: Buffalo at Fort Erie, Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:15 p.m.; Fort Erie at Caledonia, Friday, Sept. 30, 7:30 p.m.; Welland at Fort Erie, Saturday, Oct. 1, 7:15 p.m.; Niagara Falls at Fort Erie, Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:15 p.m.

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Cannons swinging for back-to-back championship titles

KRIS DUBÉ
Special to the Fort Erie Times

The Fort Erie Cannons are swinging for back-to-back Niagara District Baseball Association (NDBA) Senior B championships.

The men's team, which took down the league by defeating the Merritton Alliance in the postseason's determining three-game series last year, will face the Niagara Falls Expos in the upcoming finals.

The outcome of game one, played on Wednesday at home, was not known before press time.

The second game is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. on Sunday in Niagara Falls and the third, if necessary, will be played in Fort Erie on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

As 2015 league champs, the Cannons were exempted from the first round of the playoffs. In the second round, they took the first two games from the Rose City Thorns, sweeping the series.

"It was a tough matchup – but we knocked them off," said Cannons manager Justin Hall in an interview on Monday.

The Cannons won three of the four regular season games they played in 2016 against their upcoming championship opponents.

Hall expects close games with a lot of runs.

"They've got a lot of big bats and we do too – it's going to be a high-scoring affair," said Hall.

However, Hall said talented pitching on both teams' rosters could prove to be the difference in the series – resulting in less runs being scored.

He said Cannons ace Cam Hall and the Expos' number one starter Kevin Nivens should have an impact.

The recent sweep against Rose City was a major "team effort" with contributions from everyone – including a complete-game win from starting pitcher Jordan Dennahower.

"Our depth showed up that round and helped us out," said Hall.

Last year's league title was a first for the Cannons. Returning to the final show consecutive seasons is rewarding and exciting, said Hall.

"For years, we always fell short and got bounced out in the first or second round," said Hall, who was a player with the Cannons for many seasons before calling the shots from the dugout.

"We really have a team now that can take us all the way," he said.

On Labour Day weekend, the Cannons finished fourth in the Ontario Baseball Association tournament after going 3-2.

Winning the same tournament in 2015, the Cannons were required to compete in a higher division this time around the bases.

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Canadian Dragon boat medalist

SARAH FERGUSON/FORT ERIE TIMES

Fort Erie's John Gagnon competed at the 2016 Canadian Dragon Boat Championships held Aug 18 to 21 at the Welland International Flatcentre in Welland. He helped the Welland Warlocks bring home three silver medals; two medals in the Senior C category and one medal in the Senior B category. The 72-year-old began training with the Welland Warlocks in 2010, and credits the team with keeping him in good health. He said his goal is to compete in the Dragon Boat World Championships in China in 2017.

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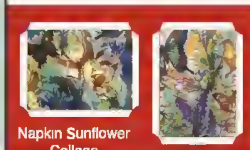

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Cards of Thanks

The family of **Ilean Winfield** would like to thank everyone for the love and support shown to us during the loss of our loved one. The family would like to extend a special thank you to the staff of the Douglas Memorial Palliative Care unit, end the staff of the Trillium Werd of Niagara Falls General for their excellent care of Ilean. Thank you to Benner Funeral Home for their guidance and support during this difficult time. Also, Pastor Deve Schaubel, thank you for en amazing service, your kind words and compassion. Thank you for the visits, kind words, flowers and donations during this difficult time.
Ilean will be sadly missed, but she will live in the hearts of all who knew her.
Sincerest Thanks,
Mervin, Dwayne, Ken and Kevin
Winfield and families.

Obituaries

WAUGH, Rita - Rita passed away at the St. Catharines General Hospital on Monday September 12th, 2016 at the age of 63. Loving mother of Bill (Catherine) Bannon and Sean (Cheryl) Bannon. She will be sadly missed by her 8 grandchildren, her brother Dirk (Maggie) Deinum, her extended family and friends. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie, entrusted with arrangements. The family received friends on Friday, September 16th from 12:30 until the time of services in the Funeral Chapel at 1 o'clock. If so desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

FRAYLE, Raymond G. - On Sunday August 28, 2016 at the Douglas Memorial Hospital, in his 76th year. Beloved husband of Magdalena "Lynne" (Fraser) Frayle. Raymond will be lovingly remembered by his family, neighbours and many friends. Funeral services were held at Morse & Son Funeral Home on September 1, 2016. Interment has taken place at Ridgeway Cemetery. Special thank you to Dr. Kim Scher; ParaMed 1 Revera and ParaMed 2 RNs, RPNs, and PSWs Natashia and Anne Marie; CCAC Supervisors and Coordinators; Donnie Edwards and staff at Ridgeway IDA; Nick at Brodies Pharmacy for the prayers and help during a difficult time; members of Bowen Road Women's Institute for their love end kindness; meny members of staff et Morse & Son Funeral Home; Pastor Thom Arth; Pastor John Day; those who provided musical accompaniment during the service; those who sent flowers and donations; neighbours who supported in many ways; staff at Oakwood Park Lodge for their help over many years and the comfort shown at this difficult time. To all of these individuals, your care, compassion, and support will never be forgotten. Ray was a gentle giant with a big heart. He will be deeply missed by all. As an expression of sympathy, those who wish may make a memorial donation, through **MORSE & SON FUNERAL HOME** in Niagara Falls, to the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, the Trillium Gift of Life Network, Fort Erie Humane Society, or to a charity of their choice. Memories, photos and condolences may be shared at
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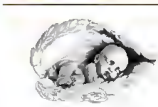

CAMERON, Marnie Lynn September 11, 2016 Though we never got to see her smile, or hear her laugh. she knows that she will forever be loved. She will be missed by her parents; Amber (Seebach) and Dusten Cameron, her grandmothers; Karrie and Rhonda and her great grandparents; Bev, Tom, Alice and Lionel. We will always remember you, Marnie. Blessed Be XOXO

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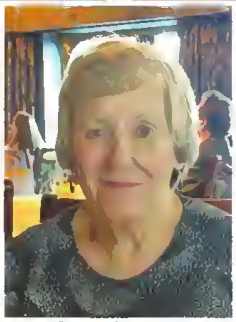
Obituaries

CARVER, Kenneth William - in his 82nd year, passed away on Friday, September 16th, 2016 at his home in Stevensville. Beloved husband of Lucille (Tucker) Carver of 61 years. Loving father of William (Jill) and Brian (Kate). Cherished grandfather (Gramps) to Andrew (Katherine), Kristin, and Jaci (Jordan) and great-grandfather to Jordan and Haley. Survived by brothers and sisters Leona Lightheart, Jean Hawkins (Lyle), Harold Carver (Stella), John Carver, Carol Brunt (Dan), sister in-laws Phyllis O'Hearn and Marlene Willick and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by parents David and Ruth Carver, sister Shirley Fish and her husband George, sister Rose Fish and her husband Charlie, and sister Evelyn Rother and her husband Lorne, sister in-laws Sheila and Mary Ann and brother in-laws Gordon Lightheart, Albert (Bibber) O'Hearn and Jack Willick. Ken's interests were hunting and golf, but he was particularly proud of his 43 years of total service with the Stevensville Volunteer Fire Department #5 with 32 years of his time being an active member. He was one of the founding members of Petheon Inc. which was formerly known es Custom Phermaceuticels. A Celebration of Ken's life was held et the Stevensville Fire Hall on Tuesday, September 20th, 2016 at 1:00pm. **WILLIAMS FUNERAL SERVICES** have been entrusted with arrangements. Donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family, cards available at the funeral home.

JONES, Robert Stephen - Steve passed away at home on Tuesday September 13th, 2016 at the age of 54. Beloved husband of Nina. Loving father of Kyle. Cherished brother to Lorie (Scott) Painter and Darcy Jones. Also survived by his father-in-law Jose and mother-in-law Virginia DeFrias his nieces, nephews and extended family. Predeceased by his parents Robert and Elain Jones. Steve was a Superintendent with Canada Customs and an Honourary member of Fort Erie Fire Department Company 3. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES,** 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Sunday September 18th from 1-3 and 6-9 pm. Funeral Services will be held in the Chapel on Monday morning at 11 o'clock. Interment to follow in Greenwood Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the Canedian Diabetes Association would be appreciated by the family.

Obituaries



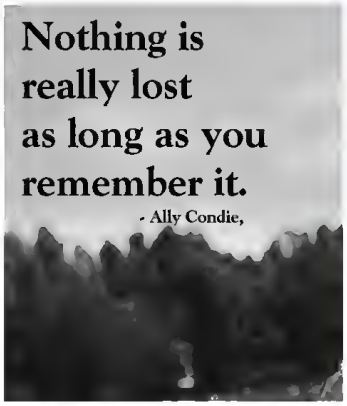
DOCKER, Geraldine - Passed away peacefully at Hamilton General Hospital on September 15, 2016 with her family at her side. Survived by her husband Tod, children Cathy Docker, Jim (Donna), Victor (Linda), Judy Fulton (Allan), Barb Bronco (David), Jeff Winger (Janice). Predeceased by son Teddy Winger. Also survived by 12 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Heart & Stroke Foundation (www.heartandstroke.on.ca) would be appreciated by the family. At her request, cremation has taken place and visitations have been held. Arrangements entrusted to **NIAGARA FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES**, 905-894-0120.

In Memoriams

Maulucci, Maria - In loving memory of our dear mother and nonna who passed away September 20, 1996.

Twenty years have swiftly passed
But still we don't forget
For in the hearts that loved you best
Your memory lingers yet
You did so much for all of us
Your heart was kind and true
And when we needed someone
We could always count on you
No words we speak could ever say
How much we miss you every day

Forever loved and never forgotten,
Marina, Lou, John and families.



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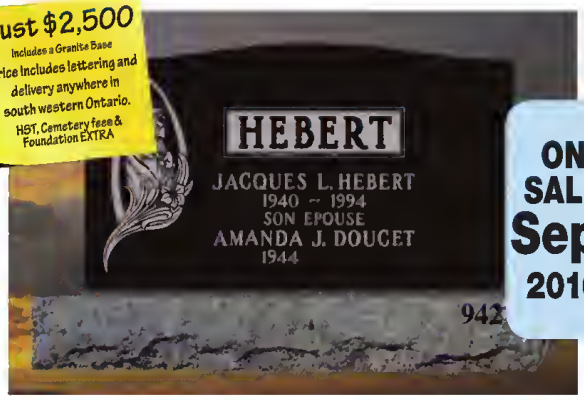

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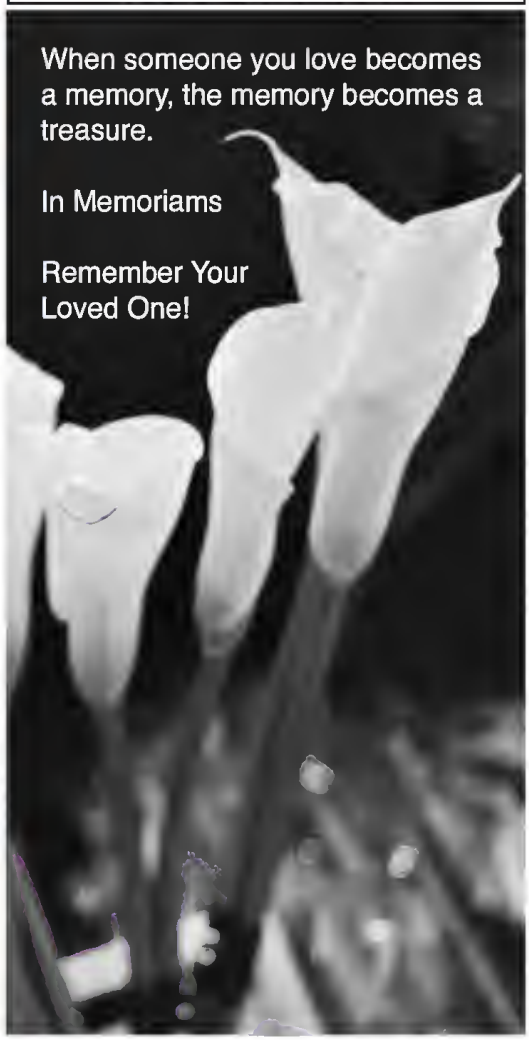

Author Emma Donoghue to visit Niagara

ANNIE PASQUARIELLO
Special to Postmedia Network

Many people may be familiar with Emma Donoghue from her novel and screenplay, *Room*, but her writing extends beyond just *Room* fame.

Donoghue will be at Fort Erie Public Library Centennial Branch and at Pelham Library to read from her latest book, *The Wonder*, sign books and answer questions.

The Wonder is set in 1850s Ireland about a young girl who appears to be thriving after months without food who believes to be living off manna from heaven.

Donoghue says the novel is inspired hy real cases of girls living without food and making headlines – a phenomenon which occurred from the 16th century to the 20th century.

She explains an extensive amount of research goes into each novel, but she does not think ahout how much time she spends researchng.

"I really want to know about the world I'm writing about. From how the clothes felt, what the food was like and how people spoke. I immerse myself in the time period."

With every new novel, there is always a critic and Donoghue says she still reads them whether they are good or bad.

"I can't say I don't care, but it's just one person's opinion and many times they directly contradict one another."

She realized she could make a living off of her writing when she got her first two book contract with a puhlisher and says was a high moment for her.

Donoghue still gets excited when she receives her author's copies of her novels and always hugs them.

"I always think this is a real book someone might huy. I never take that for granted."

The attention *Room* garnered was something Donoghue thought might happen, but she didn't expect it to become as widespread as it has.

"I had a feeling it would be well received as everyone was excited about the novel. I was surprised how many countries it has become a success in and didn't expect our small budget film to get nominated at the Oscars. I was blown away by the success of it all."

Her writing includes novels, short stories, plays and she is also a literary historian, but Donoghue says if she had to pick just one genre she enjoys writing the most, she says it would be novel writing.

"I love the power to invent an entire world. When writing a play, you sometimes don't get to chose the tiny details yourself."

Born in Ireland and now residing in London, ON., with her partner and children, Donoghue says if she wasn't living in Canada she would have probably stayed in England or Ireland.

"It's funny to think how your path might be different, but I would have always been a writer - that I can say for certain."

Emma Donoghue will be at the Pelham Library on Sept. 26 at 1 p.m., and at the Fort Erie Public Library Centennial Branch on Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. to discuss her latest novel, The Wonder.

SUBMITTED PHOTO/SPECIAL TO POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Emma Donoghue is an award-winning Irish writer who lives in Canada. She will be visiting Fort Erie Public Library Centennial Branch and Pelham Library next week.

Billy Graham evangelism congress coming to Falls

RAY SPITERI
Postmedia Network

Canada is a country where more and more people know less and less about Jesus Christ or the Bible, according to the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada.

That's why the organization is inviting Canadians interested in evangelism to deepen their passion for sharing the Gospel during a national conference in Niagara Falls.

The Canadian Evangelism Congress is scheduled for Sept. 26 and 27 at the Hilton Hotel and Suites.

It's intended for pastors, church leaders and anyone else who wants to see more Canadians impacted by the Gospel.

As of Monday, approximately 150 people were expected to attend from across Canada, said association spokesman Frank King.

"There's a huge spiritual hunger in Canada, but Canadians aren't turning to the church like they once did," said David Macfarlane, the association's director of national initiatives. "So we need to re-evangelize our nation. We want Canadians to find the hope we've found in Christ."

The association was founded by Billy Graham, a well-known American evangelical Christian, in 1950. The Canadian association was established in 1953. It partners with churches and Christian communities across the country and around the world to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Derrick Mueller, the association's regional manager, will be one of the speakers at the congress.

He said he will talk about what the religious landscape looks like across Canada, as well as how evangelical Christians can he successful in their outreach.

Mueller, who works for the Billy Graham organization, said according to Statistics Canada, 25 per cent of Canadians don't associate with any religion.

He said that number is going up.

"Our landscape is changing and immigration is on the rise, so we're hringing a variety of different views — a lot of different faiths, a lot different language barriers ... change in value system, different agendas."

Jim McBeth, lead pastor at First Baptist Church in Fort Erie, will attend the congress. He will be joined by Laurie Taylor and Adrien Wilsonne, who are also pastors at the church.

"We've been to those kind ture has become more and more secularized, so a lot of people don't see the Gospel as being relevant to their lives."

McBeth said he believes some people have been turned off the church, for various reasons.

"It's just been a general trend that way from the idea that Christ can be central to our life, and for a lot of people it's kind of a foreign idea to them now," he said.

"You look at the ... people that I connect with in our community, I would be surprised if 25 per cent of them attend church on any kind of regular basis."

McBeth said the church has to not only present the Gospel, but also do more to serve the community around it.

gara Falls for the congress because of its iconic location and "the hope that some church leaders would attend because they could combine the congress with a vacation."

"From some conversations I've had with pastors, that has in fact happened," he said, adding this is the first year for the congress.

Macfarlane, who speaks at churches and Christian events across Canada, said traditional outreach methods no longer work as well as they once did in a society that is so secular and multicultural, and where many believers have lost their passion to reach their neighbours for Christ.

The congress is designed to present new and innovative ways to connect churches tion, who has preached in more than 30 Canadian cities.

Some speakers will lead break-out sessions on a variety of evangelism-related topics.

Registration for the two-day congress costs $199. The fee includes breakfast and lunch on both days, snacks and refreshments, and resource materials.

For more information, visit billygraham.ca/congress or call 1-800-293-3717.

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MIKE DIBATTISTA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Pastor Jim McBeth, left, and associate pastor Adrien Wilsonne of First Baptist Church in Fort Erie will be attending the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada national conference being held in Niagara Falls September 26-27.

Will Graham, the grandson of Billy Graham, will be one of the main speakers at The Canadian Evangelism Congress scheduled to take place at the Hilton Hotel and Suites in Niagara Falls on Sept. 26 and 27. The congress is being put on by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada. Photo courtesy of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association of Canada

David Macfarlane

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